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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Tuesday, March 22, 2011

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## **Governor Activates Emergency Operations Center for Flooding**

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard ordered the State Emergency Operations Center in Pierre opened at 7 a.m. today in preparation for widespread spring flooding in South Dakota.

Activation of the EOC brings into one location representatives from state and federal agencies and other groups whose resources or technical expertise might be needed as South Dakota responds to flooding.

“The EOC structure assures a coordinated and cooperative response to disasters, as well consistent and uniform communications among agencies and citizens,” Gov. Daugaard said. “Many rivers and streams are overflowing, and there could be record flooding in some places. It’s important to have a coordinated response to requests for resources in areas that need them the most.”

Water remaining in some areas from 2010 flooding, combined with moisture from melting snow, is causing flooding across much of eastern South Dakota.

The Big Sioux River could reach record levels in some areas. High water is also expected on the James River and many eastern lakes.

Ice jams on rivers and streams are contributing to rising water levels in some areas, and rain and snow forecast for the coming week is likely to increase runoff into lakes and rivers.